

Wheel of Fortune
Between Leipsic and Little Creek
Kent County, Delaware

HABS No. Del- 76✓

HABS
DEL

1- Leipsic

4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Weston H. Blake, District Officer
909 West Street, Wilmington, Delaware

WHEEL OF FORTUNE MANSION
Between Leipsic and Little Creek, Kent County, Delaware.

HABS

DEL

1- LEIP.V

4.

Owner: Hon. James H. Hughes, Dover, Del.

Date of Erection: Pre-Revolutionary.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Basement and two and a half stories, lower frame service wing on rear. Sheds and front porch modern.

Materials of Construction: Stone masonry cellar, brick walls, wood shingle roof.

Other Existing Records: Scharf, J. Thomas., "History of Delaware" p 1118. National Society of Colonial Dames, "Some Historic Points in Delaware".

Additional Data: Typical Kent County manor house. L shaped plan, excellent woodwork. Note 12 over 12 lights sash on first floor and 8 over 12 on second floor.

Now occupied by tenant farmer and in need of repair.

Laussat R. Rogers

Approved

Robert H. Bell
District Officer.

4/8/57

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DEL

WHEEL OF FORTUNE (A HOUSE)

1-LEIP.V.

4-

An addendum to
"Wheel of Fortune"
Leipsic vicinity, Delaware
in HABS Catalog (1941)

Location: On Route 9 about two miles south of town,
Leipsic vicinity, Little Creek Hundred,
Kent County, Delaware

Original and subsequent owners: Land surveyed to John Chance, 1738.
Owned for long period by Nicholson family; afterward by Senator Hughes

Brief Statement of Significance: This house, built in the mid eighteenth century and representative of the area, is characterized by a rather unornamented, spare, Georgian treatment, somewhat more elaborate on the interior than the exterior.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Wheel of Fortune is an eighteenth-century plantation house in the Georgian manner. The term "Georgian manner" is used advisedly because not a few Delaware plantation houses of approximately the same date ---- Wheel of Fortune was built near the middle of the eighteenth century ---- whether designed for Quakers or not, left off many of the Middle-Georgian exterior characteristic features while presenting a structural Georgian body. They were instances of identifiable genus, minus the requisite identification marks of species.

As for the interiors of these houses, that was another matter. They might be as plain as the proverbial "pipe-stem"; again, they might disclose all the current enriching amenities of woodwork.

Wheel of Fortune, with its five-bay frontage facing east, like some other plantation houses in Little Creek

Hundred, is of one-room depth. There is a two-story wing at the rear of the south end. The masonry of the end walls, and of the rear, is laid in Liverpool (common) bond. The front of the house is in Flemish bond. The belt course of four-brick width has the two central courses recessed. There is a simple moulding beneath the box cornice. The small porch at the house-door is a later addition.

Too little attention is usually paid to the dependencies on an old farm or plantation. They were just as much a part of the machinery of living as the dwellings to which they belonged. If we wish to visualise truly the pattern of plantation life in bygone times, the dependencies must be taken into account.

Often times, where the original dependencies were of wooden construction, they have disappeared and been replaced by others of more modern contrivance. At Wheel of Fortune ---- happily co-incident with the plantation's name ---- two of the original dependencies are intact, the meat house and the milk house. They are both substantially built of brick and stand near the southwest end of the house, conveniently reached from the kitchen wing.

The interior has good but not elaborate woodwork. In the parlour ---- evidently done over about the beginning of the nineteenth century ---- the mantel and chair rail are good examples of punch-and-gouge decoration. The dog-eared door and window-framing of an earlier date, and the robust muntins of the window sashes, have not been disturbed.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 1960

Addendum to:
Wheel of Fortune (House)
Delaware Route 9, 1.4 miles south of Leipsic
Leipsic Vicinity
Kent County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-76

HABS
DEL,
1-LEIP.V,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106